

THE CALEXICO COMMUNITY POLICE ADVISORY COMMISSION MET IN A SPECIAL SESSION ON THE 25TH OF JANUARY 2010, AT 6:30 P.M. AT THE CITY OF CALEXICO CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM, LOCATED AT 608 HEBER AVENUE, CALEXICO, CA. THE DATE, HOUR, AND PLACE DULY ESTABLISHED FOR THE HOLDING OF SAID MEETING.

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Commission Member Torres at 6:35 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of allegiance was led by Commission Member Torres.

ROLL CALL

Present: Luis Fernando Garcia
Daniel Gutierrez
Fernando Torres
Lorenzo Calderon

Absent: Carlos Herrera

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commission Member Calderon made a motion for approval of the minutes. This motion was seconded by Commission Member Garcia. Approval of the June 25th, 2009, meeting were unanimously approved by Commission Members Garcia, Gutierrez, and Torres.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

1. New Commission Members Luis F. Garcia and Lorenzo Calderon were sworn in by City Clerk Lourdes Cordova.
2. Chief Neujahr invited the Police Advisory Commission members to the upcoming 8th Annual Run-a-thon that the Calexico Police Department was hosting on January 30th, 2010. Chief Neujahr advised that the Run-a-thon was also being hosted by the Calexico Recreation Department and that the municipality of Mexicali was assisting in organizing like in previous years.
3. Chief Neujahr advised polo shirts were going to be purchased for the commission members. Present commissioner members provided their shirt sizes to Ms. Gomez.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Chief Neujahr advised commission members that there were pending issues that needed to be taken care of for the remainder of the year (fiscal year), i.e. goals and objectives for 2010.
2. Chief Neujahr advised the commission members that reorganization within the commission needed to take place for Chairman and Vice-Chair. Commission Member Calderon made a motion for Commission Member Torres to be named Chairman. This motion was seconded by Commission Member Garcia. All present voted unanimously for Commission Member Torres to be the Chairman for the Calexico Police Advisory Commission. Commission Member Garcia made a motion for Commission Member Calderon for the Vice-Chair position. This motion was seconded by Commission Member Torres. All present voted unanimously for Commission Member Calderon to be the Vice-Chair for the Calexico Police Advisory Commission.
3. Chief Neujahr advised the commission members that in the last year the date of the commission meeting had been changed from Wednesday to Thursday. He advised that since there were two newly appointed members, the meeting day needed to be revisited, in addition to the time of the meeting. It was agreed by all that the meeting date should be changed back to the last Wednesday of the month and to make the meeting time 5:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS

1. Commission Member Comments
Commission members inquired as to the City's hiring freeze. Chief Neujahr advised that all vacancies were on freeze and that this would continue to next fiscal year 2010-11. Chief Neujahr further advised that there have been no lay-offs in the City. Chief Neujahr advised that the Department currently had ten (10) vacancies for police officers. Chief Neujahr further advised that the Department had obtained two police officers through a USDOJ grant. Commission Member Garcia inquired as to how much this grant was for. Chief Neujahr advised that the grant was for \$500,000, which would cover the salary for 2 police officers and their benefits for three (3) years. Chief Neujahr further stated that the City would pick up the salary and benefits for these officers on year 4 of the grant. In addition to the 10 police officer vacancies, the Department also had two (2) vacancies in Records and three (3) vacancies in Dispatch. Chief Neujahr advised that the salary savings for these vacancies would be used for the City's fiscal deficit and that there would not be a guaranteed that these funded vacancies would be in the Department's budget for next fiscal year, (not allocated). Chief Neujahr advised the commission members that the City's sales tax revenue was down 48%, which would mean that there might be a \$2 million deficit. On a side note, Chief Neujahr advised that the Department no longer had the Holtville Police Department contract for dispatching services.

Commission Member Torres asked if overtime was high due to the lack of manpower; Chief Neujahr advised that Stone Garden Grant funds are available for officers working on their furlough day. Chief Neujahr stressed that the Stone Garden grant was only for patrol overtime. Chief Neujahr advised that the Department's overtime budget was drastically reduced for this fiscal year due to budget cuts and that the CPOA (Calexico

Police Officers Association) had already been advised that once these funds were gone, that overtime hours worked would be comp-time.

Commission Member Torres stated that his concern was that the citizens of Calexico were not receiving the service they deserved or needed. He further stated that the City raised fees and that services that are provided to the citizens are less. Commission Member Torres stated that the City's staffing levels were not adequate. Commission Member Torres stated that cuts needed to be made in other areas other than police and fire. Commission Member Torres stated that the Police Advisory Commission members should lobby their appointing council member on this matter.

Commission Member Garcia inquired as to what was going on with PAL. Chief Neujahr advised the commission members that PAL had been put on notice that the Calexico Police Department would not be able to manage or run the program. Chief Neujahr stated that the Calexico Police Department had always been very supportive of the program, but that it no longer could afford to have a fulltime employee overseeing it. Chief Neujahr advised that the CSO (Community Service Officer) running the program would be re-assigned to doing CSO duties now that patrol was so short in personnel. Both CSO's would be assigned to different work schedules and they would be responsible in taking past-occurred crime reports, thus alleviating the overburden patrol teams. Chief Neujahr advised that if PAL continued with the City, that it would be overseen by the City's Recreation Department. Chief Neujahr stated that the PAL program needed to be solvent, but that they depended on donations, and that donations are just not coming in.

Chief Neujahr reported to the commission members that he had met with JPIA representatives to discuss on the job injuries (OJI). Chief Neujahr reported that 70-80% of OJI's were occurring during the graveyard shift and that this number was way above average. Chief Neujahr advised that at one time there were ten (10) officers out on OJI. Chief Neujahr stated that he feels that due to the lack of manpower officers are working much more and are tired and officers might not be careful in performing simple tasks like getting in and out the units, chasing suspects, etc. Chief Neujahr reported that City Manager Carrillo would be addressing the 12 shift during labor negotiations for FY 2010-2011. Chief Neujahr also reported that the 160 work month for police officers would also be addressed in the upcoming labor negotiations.

Commission Member Torres inquired as to the validity of using the salary savings that the Department had with all the current vacancies to pay for pending lawsuits. Chief Neujahr stated that he was advised that the City's liability insurance does not pay for FSLA lawsuits, and that currently the City would be settling a lawsuit that came from the Department.

2. Commission Correspondence
None.

3. Future Agenda Items
2010 Goals for Police Advisory Commission – Chief Neujahr
Stop sign at VV Williams – Commissioner Gutierrez

Stop sign at ML King Street and Cole Blvd. – Commission Gutierrez

ADJOURNMENT

Commission Member Torres motioned for adjournment of meeting. This was seconded by Commission Member Garcia. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Martha L. Gomez, Executive Assistant
Recording Secretary
Calexico Police Department

MINUTES JANUARY 2010